

EXCESSES OF JANUARY 6 AND THE JANUARY 6TH COMMITTEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, on February 27, 1933, the Reichstag, Germany's capitol building, was set on fire. Who was responsible remains in dispute even today.

But what is undisputed is that the Nazis, barely holding on to power in a coalition government, used the attack to besmirch their political opponents, consolidate their grip on the government, arrest hundreds of political opponents, and, ultimately, rescind the due process rights and fundamental freedoms of the German people. It remains a cautionary tale, for obvious reasons.

The January 6 riot at the Capitol has become the centerpiece of the Democrats' agenda. No other issue facing our country, not the worst inflation in 40 years, not the highest gasoline prices in history, not the fastest increase in homicides ever recorded, not the historically unprecedented illegal mass migration across our southern border, none of these crises has commanded prime-time congressional hearings from the Democrats.

What happened here on January 6 was an affront to our Constitution and a national disgrace. Those who entered the Capitol with the intent to disrupt the counting of electoral votes deserved to be denounced by their fellow citizens and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

More importantly, questions involving the authority of Congress to refuse to count electoral votes, or why adequate security was not present to protect the Capitol, or whether there were conspiracies to break into the Capitol are all important to resolve to ensure that this never happens again.

What is unfolding, instead, is a sick mockery of the principles of fairness and due process that this House is founded upon. It promises to discredit those proceedings and to dishonor its participants.

Congress has a time-honored process to get at the truth. It guarantees the right of both sides to appoint their representatives, who then question and debate the facts, offer conflicting evidence, and hold an issue to every light.

For the first time in the history of this institution, the Speaker arrogated to herself not only the selection of the majority members but the minority members as well, thus assuring only one side, her side, could be heard.

Without having both sides represented, it becomes impossible to test the accuracy of facts, the truth of the narratives, and the soundness of opinions. It robs the process of the credibility that is a necessary prerequisite to legitimacy.

Instead of the sober inquiry that should have been undertaken a year and a half ago, we have a Soviet-style

show trial, all carefully choreographed by an ABC television producer.

To add hypocrisy to outrage, some of the Speaker's representatives played a crucial role in developing and fanning the Russia collusion hoax that groundlessly challenged the legitimacy of the Trump election and Presidency. Some were themselves involved in challenging electoral votes counted after the 2016 election. Some were apologists for the violent riots that consumed this country in 2020. Some have been eerily silent as Supreme Court Justices have been intimidated in their own homes.

Now, the FBI thoroughly examined the riot last year. They found no evidence that President Trump conspired with protesters to enter the Capitol, nor have the Democrats offered any now. They instead repackage and rehash the snap impeachment trial in which the President was acquitted by the Senate.

Indeed, this committee knows but has deceptively suppressed the stunning fact that 4 days before the riot, President Trump offered the use of National Guard troops to keep the peace. The Democrat leadership turned it down.

Do they really expect us to believe that the same guy who meticulously planned the riot also authorized the National Guard to prevent the riot? This is insane.

Insurrection? The constitutional process immediately resumed once these yahoos were kicked out of this building. Do the Democrats actually expect us to believe that some lunatic wearing buffalo horns was moments away from seizing control of our government?

The narrative cannot survive in open debate, and the Democrats know it. That is why they are not permitting one.

Our institutions are strong because they are backed by the common sense of the American people. Our traditions of due process and fairness are too deeply ingrained in the American character to succumb to this madness.

After Americans have reported their verdict in the upcoming election, perhaps we can forge a bipartisan consensus on the measures necessary to assure that the excesses of both January 6 and the January 6th Committee never threaten us again.

SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS AND CARIBBEAN TRADE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I have just returned from the Ninth Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles, which gathered the heads of state and senior government officials from nearly every country in the Western Hemisphere, as well as hundreds of businesses, civil society, and youth leaders from across the region.

Members of a 20-person congressional delegation met with leaders from many of our neighboring countries, Chile, Jamaica, Canada, Haiti.

I had the opportunity to speak with the heads of state of many of our Caribbean neighbors. From these conversations, one thing was clear: Now more than ever, it is necessary for the United States to deepen its relationship with Latin America, Central America, and the Caribbean.

With threats of the COVID-19 pandemic, democratic erosion, and climate change, my constituents in the Virgin Islands know all too well the collective challenges facing the hemisphere.

I thank the Biden administration for its commitment to productive engagement with Latin and Central America and the Caribbean. In Los Angeles, the administration announced the Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity, which calls for sustainable and inclusive trade; the U.S.-Caribbean Partnership to Address the Climate Crisis 2030; and the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration.

I strongly urge this administration to follow up on these commitments and promises with concrete actions that will deliver tangible results, particularly in the Caribbean because the Caribbean is facing an economic crisis. The pandemic has exacted a harsh toll on the region, with regional economic activity falling by 9.9 percent in 2020, significantly worse than the rest of the region.

Climate change poses a particularly dire threat to the lives, livelihood, and businesses in the Caribbean. For years, the harmful trend of financial de-risking by banks has economically strangled the Caribbean islands.

The Caribbean, which is our third border, is essential to U.S. national and economic security. From the early days of the American Revolution to the Cold War, the Caribbean has played a vital role in U.S. defense. It, alone, is the United States' sixth largest trade partner, with \$35.3 billion of trade in 2018. And 13 million people in the U.S. share Caribbean ancestry.

Despite these common interests between the U.S. and the Caribbean, China is making significant inroads in this area. Indeed, total Chinese trade with Latin America and the Caribbean rose from \$18 billion in 2002 to \$449 billion in 2021, and China is now South America's largest trade partner.

Therefore, improving the U.S.-Caribbean relationship and strengthening the U.S.-Caribbean trade and economic partnership must be a priority for the administration and this Congress.

First, we must follow up on our commitments made at the summit with tangible results and concrete investments that correspond to the Caribbean's needs and for our national security.

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Second, this Chamber must pass H. Res. 1047, which will reaffirm the economic partnership between the United